

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
A Proclamation

- Whereas:** Italian American Heritage Month was created by Congress in 1989 to highlight the contributions Italian immigrants and their descendants have made to the history of our country and we recognize that Italian Americans have contributed greatly to the success of our nation, to the State of New Hampshire and to Portsmouth society, business, government, music, the arts and the sciences; and
- Whereas:** The stories of the Italian families who migrated to Portsmouth in the late 1800s and early 1900s along with millions of their fellow citizens, sailing past Lady Liberty lifting her “lamp beside the open door” are the stories of how their family members built Portsmouth and nourished their families and this City; and
- Whereas:** So many of those families remain in Portsmouth – so many from our Friendship City of Santarcangelo and from San Giovanni Incarico that reading phone books there is to read names that are familiar here – such as Pesaresi, Ferrini, Semprini, DeStefano, Riciputi– who have contributed so much to the rich Italian American heritage of our City and of the United States;
- Whereas:** The proclamation of the Friendship City agreement in 2019 said, “The cities of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA, and Santarcangelo di Romagna, Italy, share similar goals of international cooperation, mutual prosperity and world peace, and believe it to be in their collective interest to broaden and strengthen ties between the two cities;” and
- Whereas:** We welcome a delegation of students and teachers from Santarcangelo next week to reinforce our Friendship bonds and to launch an exchange and Italian language program at Portsmouth High School; and
- Whereas:** Earlier this summer we celebrated the Little Italy Carnival as a signature event of the Portsmouth NH 400th to recognize the resilience and indomitable spirit of the Italians who had settled, married and raised their families in Portsmouth’s North End and who were uprooted and displaced between 1969 and 1971 by the misguided practices of Urban Renewal; and
- Whereas:** There is a small granite bench on Deer Street with the names of those displaced families whose homes one former resident described when the bench was placed in 1998: "The door was always open to neighbors, and the table was always welcoming with a glass of homemade wine and Italian breads or cookies;" and
- Whereas:** Nearly 11 percent of the population of New Hampshire claims Italian Heritage, making the Granite State the seventh most Italian American state in the nation; and during October we take pause to reflect on the contributions, as well as the struggles hard fought and overcome by Italian Americans here in Portsmouth and throughout our nation's history.

Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim October 2023 in Portsmouth as

Italian American Heritage Month

and call upon the residents of Portsmouth to celebrate the Italian Heritage our citizens have come to share with us and to embrace our Friendship City of Santarcangelo with Portsmouth’s welcoming, always-open door.



Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 16th day of October 2023.


Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth